

Message Text

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SUBJ: VIETNAM REACTION

FOR INA, IOR

REF AUSTIN PAO LETTER NO 8

1. PRESS BLOSSOMED TODAY WITH STRONGLY ANTI-AMERICAN HEADLINES, OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, AND EDITS ON VIETNAM. THIS LINE REFLECTING OFFICIAL VIEWS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ECHOSED EVEN MORE VIOLENTLY IN ORATORY AT MAY DAY RALLIES LATER TODAY WITH LARGEST CROWDS EVER EXPECTED. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF SAMPLING OF VOLUMINOUS COMMENTS:

2. OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ISSUED BY ACTING PRIME MINISTER MAITRIPALA SENANAYAKE: "...IT HAS BEEN THIS GOVERNMENTS POSITION THAT THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (PRG) SYMBOLIZED THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND REPRESENTED THEIR TRUE SPIRIT. WE THEREFORE WELCOME THE NEWS OF THE VICTORY OF THE FORCES OF THE PRG AND THE DAWN OF AN ERA OF PEACE... THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA HAS ALWAYS

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MAINTAINED THAT THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM SHOULD BE

ALLOWED TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY FREE FROM FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND THAT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND UNITY OF THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE RESPECTED. THE TRIUMPH OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE NOW FINALLY AFFORDS THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROGRESS IN PEACE TOWARDS THAT GOAL."

3. MAY DAY MESSAGE FROM FINANCE MINISTER N M PERERA: "WHAT NEXT" EXCHANGES AND RE-ECHOES AMONG THE TEEMING MILLIONS OF THIS AREA* IT IS A MEASURE OF THE CHANGING TIME THAT MERE SWEEPER IN SINGAPORE CAN STOP AND ASK ME WHAT NEXT, WHAT HOPE FOR ALL OF US? ARE THE AMERICANS FINISHED FOR GOOD? MILITARY DICTATORSHIPS OF PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA, REACTIONARY GOVERNMENTS OF THAILAND AND MALAYSIA ARE ALL RE-THINKING THEIR POLICIES VIS-A-VIS THE HIGH AND MIGHTY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.. DOUBTLESS THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE SLOW MOVE TOWARD NEW REALIGNMENTS AWAY FROM THE YANKEE IMPERIALISTS... 23 (UNITED FRONT GOVT) HAD NEVER SWERVED IN OUR FAITH IN THE ULTIMATE VICTORY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY FORCES OF VIETNAM. THEY HAVE BROUGHT TO THEIR KNEES THE MIGHTIEST POWER OF THE CAPITALIST WORLD. THIS VICTORY IS A TREMENDOUS TRIBUTE TO THE MIGHT OF A DETERMINED PEOPLE, HOWEVER SMALL, TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM THE OPPRESSION OF THE INVADERS. VIETNAM PROVIDES A LESSON FOR THOSE IN SRI LANKA WHO STILL HANKER AFTER THE IMPERIALISTS AND TO THOSE WHO ARE MESMERIZED BY THE WEAPONS OF THE IMPERIALIST POWERS..."

4. COMMUNIST MINISTER OF HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION PIETER KEUNEMAN: "THIS VICTORY IS A STAGGERING REBUFF TO IMPERIALISM AND A LESSON THAT EVEN THE MIGHTIEST IMPERIALISM CANNOT HOPE TO KEEP DOWN FOR EVER A PEOPLE DETERMINED TO FIGHT FOR THEIR FREEDOM."

5. ANURA BANDARANAIKE, PRIME MINISTER'S SON AND CHIEF ORGANIZER OF SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY YOUTH UNCLASSIFIED

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LEAGUE SAID HIS LEAGUE CONGRATULATES THE HEROIC FIGHTERS OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FORCES OF VIETNAM WHO HAVE LIBERATED THEIR COUNTRY MARKING A UNIQUE VICTORY INSPIRING ALL THOSE WHO CHERISH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND HUMAN DIGNITY. THIS GREAT VICTORY OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THAT OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE, REPRESENTS IRREVERSIBLE COURSE OF HISTORY WHICH GUARANTEES THE VICTORIES OF ALL

JUST CAUSES DIRECTED AGAINST FOREIGN IMPERIALISTS
AND THEIR LOCAL STOOGES... WE CONGRATULATE THE
PRG OF SOUTH VIETNAM, ALL COMBATANTS OF THE
LIBERATION ARMED FORCES, AND THE PEOPLE OF ENTIRE
VIETNAM ON THEIR HISTORIC VICTORY AND WISH THEM
STILL GREATER SUCCESSES IN CONSOLIDATING THEIR
ACHIEVEMENTS GAINED THROUGH THE UNCOMPROMISING
HEROIC AWARENESS OF RESISTANCE AGAINST IMPERIALIST
AGGRESSORS AND THEIR LOCAL STOOGES."

6. LARGEST ENGLISH DAILY (52,000) GOVERNMENT
CONTROLLED "CEYLONE
DAILY NEWS" IN SIX-COLUMN
EDITORIAL ENTITLED "A TRIUMPH OF THE SPIRIT"
SALUTED "A VICTORY THAT IS PERHAPS THE MOST
DECISIVE AND COURAGEOUS IN THE HISTORY OF HUMAN
CONFLICT: DECISIVE BECAUSE ITS SHATTERING IMPACT
IS LIKELY TO CHANGE THE WHOLE COURSE OF THE
THIRD WORLD'S STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL AND SELF-
RESPECT IN ONE OF THE MOST CRUCIAL CONFRONTA-
TIONS OF OUR TIME -- THE CONFRONTATION OF THE
HAVES AND THE HAVE-NOTS... THE INDOMITABLE
SPIRIT OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAD ITS FINAL
FULFILLMENT YESTERDAY WHEN THREE DECADES OF WAR
ENDED WITH THE UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER OF THE
AMERICAN-BACKED PUPPET GOVERNMENT FORCES: A WAR
IN WHICH OVER A MILLION DIED INCLUDING 56,000
AMERICAN COMBAT TROOPS AND CAMP-FOLLOWERS. THE
TRAGEDY AND WASTEFULNESS OF US INTERVENTION IN
THIS PART OF THE WORLD HAS FORTUNATELY ENDED ON
A RESOUNDING NOTE OF TRIUMPH FOR ALL OPPRESSED
PEOPLE, IN A VICTORY FOR AN ASIAN DAVID OVER A
NEW AND MORE MONSTROUS GOLIATH. THAT IS WHAT ALL
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THE PEOPLE OF THE THIRD WORLD WILL CELEBRATE
TODAY. WE JOIN THEM IN THEIR CELEBRATION."

7. TYPICAL FRONT-PAGE BANNER HEADLINES: "FINAL
VICTORY IN WAR-TORN VIETNAM" (DAILY NEWS).
"ENVOYS DANCE AT NEWS OF SAIGON'S SURRENDER"
(CEYLON OBSERVER). "LAST OF AMERICANS PULLED
OUT OF VIETNAM" (TIMES OF CEYLON). "UNCONDITIONAL
SURRENDER OF S. VIETNAM" (DAILY MIRROR).
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